

THE ARGUS.

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Friday, January 15, 1915.

Whether or not President Wilson meant to refer to his candidacy in 1916 is of little consequence. He will be a candidate because the people will insist upon it, if for no other reason.

Doubtless there is a second very good reason for bringing the Indians from Asia and the Turcos from Africa to fight the enemies of the allies. If left in idleness at home they might get into mischief.

Speaking of the shocking casualties of the war, Oklahoma has raised the price on bank robbers to \$1,000, and the office of sheriff in that state continues to be a more or less unhealthy one for the incumbents.

With Jack Johnson cut off from Juarez on the north by the United States and on the south by General Carranza, the stage is set for a publicity campaign which ought to be a corker.

With a disastrous earthquake and big developments in a world-wide war to distract public attention, the Illinois legislature is laboring under a great handicap this winter. However, no one can accuse it of doing anything short of its level best.

Reduction of Gutierrez as president of Mexico brings out the fact that they are still picking men to fill out the unexpired term of Porfirio Diaz, which has nearly two years more to run. All sorts of things may happen, and probably will, in that period.

Considering the showing the Serbs have made in the war their plea that the letter "v" in their name be replaced with "b" is entitled to some consideration. The spirit in which they have met the attack of the Austrians has suggested anything but servility.

Of the \$384,000,000 in emergency currency, issued during the crisis in business attending the opening of the war, \$300,000,000 has already been retired and the rest will be called in before the end of the month. Gradually the business house is being restored to normal.

Perhaps the future effect of the war is being over-estimated. In Paraguay a couple of generations ago the men were killed off in civil conflict till there was but one left to 19 women. Now the population has been sufficiently recruited to enable the nation to fight again.

King George of England has just conferred a batch of titles upon leaders of the Russian army. And if the war has as lasting an influence for peace as has been predicted for it, doubtless those who have been honored will be glad to hand the decorations down to their descendants.

The international credit pendulum has swung to the United States and the gold has started to come back to pay for supplies the Europeans are buying from us. A syndicate has been formed to arrange a credit of \$15,000,000 for Russia, and while this is virtually a loan, it is made to enable trade to continue and is therefore justifiable.

Russia is declared by some judges of the military situation to derive protection and safety from attack by reason of her "impenetrable spaces," where the armies of Napoleon lie buried. She has such distances to be traveled by an attacking force that the handling of a great army against her would be out of the question. The figure of the forces of Napoleon, lying buried in Russia is one that carries its own meaning, not to be forgotten.

FIGHTING THE MICROBE.

If we are to sterilize the mouthpieces of telephones every day to kill the bacteria and prevent infection, and are to scour the door-knobs every day for the same reason, why not be consistent and go on scrubbing and scrubbing everything with which we come in contact?

If these bacteria must be cleaned out once a day, why not once an hour, or once a minute? The pestiferous things are apt to get in any second.

Of course, everybody knows that drinking water should be not only boiled, but distilled, and then drunk from a sterilized cup, and the mouth rinsed with an antiseptic solution after.

We have all often enough been

warned that handshaking is dangerous and that kissing is simply deadly. All of which warning we have all duly observed, of course.

And now that we have got used to the incessant scrubbing and turned it from hardship into habit, it is shocking to be informed by an eminent bacteriologist that we still are in momentary danger from microbes that lurk in the scrub-brush itself.

Maybe we shall next be scrubbing the scrub-brush, and sterilizing the soap, and then sterilizing the sterilizer. Bacteriologists are insatiable. They never know where to stop.

But their demands, if fully accepted, would leave us no time to make a living. It would be scrub, scrub with us all the while. And while we are scrubbing ourselves from death from microbes we would die of starvation.

The farmer, instead of plowing, would put in all his time killing the microbes on his plow-handles; the butcher, instead of killing beef, would never cease to scour his knife and cleaver; and there would be nothing produced to eat.

This sort of thing may be carried too far. The bacteriologists must learn to draw the line somewhere.

THE KINDLY REMEMBRANCE

It is consoling to think of the virtues of those who are gone, and to feel that the good qualities should endure. There were conspicuous traits in the character of Oscar L. Bruner that will be remembered. He was a man of kindly nature. He aided his family and was unfailing in his consideration of their comfort and happiness. He loved children and the "newsies" on the street called him "Oz." He was large hearted and generous. He was uniformly good natured. His buoyancy was of the demonstrative kind. It did nobody any harm and it did a lot of good. No one saw him without a smile. It did not desert him when the world seemed dark to him, or when he was suffering pain and despair.

He was always the same "Oz" Bruner—and so he will be remembered.

FINDING OUR OWN FERTILIZER.

Present agricultural practice prescribes the use of three chemical elements as a "soil amendment," a "stimulant for plant growth," or "a plant food," as it is variously put. These three elements, when applied to the soil in which a crop is growing, have been found by practice to afford an increased crop yield. They are phosphorus, potassium and nitrogen, spoken of by the respective trade terms of phosphoric acid, potash and "ammoniates."

In the commercial fertilizers phosphoric acid is found in the form of calcium phosphate, which is bone phosphate or rock phosphate, usually treated with sulphuric acid to render it soluble. Potash is found as a salt or salts of potassium, either sulphate or chloride, and the "ammoniates," as the inorganic salt of ammonia, ammonium sulphate, the inorganic salt of nitric acid, sodium nitrate, and inorganic compounds of nitrogen, calcium cyanamide, or the organic compounds of nitrogen, contained in animal or vegetable refuse matter, cotton seed meal, shattur tankage, or fish scrap.

The usual commercial fertilizers contain these three elements and have the designation of "complete fertilizers." These are sold under various brand names, the various brands frequently being recommended for particular crops. The proportion of the three essential ingredients is varied; as a usual thing that of the phosphoric acid is considerably higher than the other two, which are present in about the same proportion. Thus, for example, a "7-2-2 mixture" contains 7 per cent phosphoric acid (P₂O₅), 2 per cent ammonia (NH₃), and 2 per cent potash (K₂O). Its selling price in the retail market is based on its analysis. Little attention is paid to the source of these ingredients so long as the essential compounds are "available," or readily may be decomposed or made soluble for the use of the plants.

The nation's supply of these three common ingredients of fertilizer may be summarized as follows: Of phosphoric acid there is an abundant supply in the large deposits of phosphate rock in Florida and Tennessee, and the enormous deposits of Idaho, Montana and Wyoming.

Of potash, now obtained exclusively from the German mines, there is little known in this country outside of the desiccated residues in Seaboard Lake, Cal., and the giant heaps of the Pacific littoral. In the latter there is much more than enough to supply the present demands of the fertilizer trade of the United States, the present annual consumption of potash being about 2,250,000 tons, of varied composition. At present the heaps are not supplying any of this, since it has not been determined by actual experimentation on a commercial scale that they can be used economically as a source of potash. Estimates based on costs of similar operations indicate that they can be so used.

Of "ammoniates" there is a large source in the ammonia produced as a by-product in the distillation of coal for the production of gas or coke, or both. This source is but partially developed, as by the methods most commonly practiced in this country this possible by-product is not recovered. The amount of ammonia now going to waste is almost large enough to supply all of the "ammoniates" now demanded by the fertilizer trade. The shatturs supply a large amount of tankage and dried blood of high fertilizer value; but of these possible by-products there is still an enormous loss through the lack of organization and cooperation in the small scale slaughter of animals for food.

Since receiving municipal suffrage over 25,000 African women have registered in Johannesburg.

THE COSMOPOLITAN CAUCASIAN

Concerning Caucasasia, where the Turks and the Russians are renewing that long conflict that has existed between the Turk and the Muscovite, the National Geographic society today issued the following statement:

"Caucasia is a potpourri of races, tongues and religions. Nowhere else in the world can one find on a similar area so many types of peoples, so many languages and dialects, so many religions and sects thereof, as in this Russian government where the troops of the tsar and those of the crescent are continuing their generation-long but mortal feud. The Caucasus, for the most part, stretch above fruitful land, and every folk-stream which flowed their way has left eddies within their closed, world-isolated valleys.

"The cosmopolitanism of New York is provincial compared with the map of Caucasasia, regardless of confusion of Caucasian peoples. There are some seventy dialects strange to the west spoken within its boundaries, while business, touring, engineering and other techniques bring most of the other languages in. In this modern Babel dwell Georgians, Imeritians, Chechens, Lazs, Mingrelians, Pshavs, Swanitians, Abkhazians, Circassians, Kabardians, Ossetes, Avars, Chechins, Russians, of several varieties, Dalgas, Lezgians, Kazy-Kumykh, Tush, Ingush, Greeks and others of the Occident. Caucasasia, indeed, may be said to be a place preeminently devoted to language—all kinds and complexions of speech being native there in bewildering richness.

"Caucasia is the broad, stocky isthmus which, extending from the southeast corner of Europe to Asia, divides the Black and Caspian seas. Its area is about 150,000 square miles, or more than four times larger than the state of Ohio. It has good ports upon both the Black and Caspian seas, Batumi on the one, and Baku on the other. The famous Apsheron peninsula is even by plausible wagon-roads."

INSURANCE RATES

The most important document that has ever been presented to an executive in this state since it was admitted into the union 96 years ago, says the Canton Register, is the report of Judge Rufus M. Potts, state insurance commissioner. Judge Potts knows the insurance business from one side to the other. From the reports of the companies, and from a most thorough investigation, he finds the people of this state are paying \$16,000,000 more each year than they should. And this great sum is taken from them through the workings of the most comprehensive trust ever organized. Thousands of people have felt for years they were being robbed, but they could see no relief and walked up to the agent's office and put down their money. Judge Potts is going to ask the legislature for relief for the people.

And then will come the greatest contest ever known in Illinois. Alread the trust is getting ready; it can have but one argument and that bears the dollar mark.

There will be no demand that the insurance companies shall not have a good return for their money, but there will be a thunderous demand that the people shall not be robbed.

Every constituent of every legislator is interested in this matter. Every member of the house and senate must understand this before he comes to Springfield. He can go away from here with more money than he had when he came here, but he goes as a marked man, shunned by every honest man in his community, for they well know that the trust can spend millions to hold their present opportunity to prey upon the people.

Takes After Nobody.

Visitor—Little Willie takes after his father, doesn't he? Sister—No, he doesn't. You ought to see him at the table! He always grabs first—California Pelican.

It was a chilly day. Worse still, it was a damp day. The teacher was half past 40 and the clock was half past two. The principal—well, perhaps he was innocent of any intentional harm to the children, but in this day of hygiene it is up to the principal to see that children under his supervision are not poisoned by their own excretions, no matter how old-fashioned and one-sided the teacher may be about it.

Well, the outdoor air was just fine—cool and moderately moist, and enough wind blew to make it bracing where still air might have been depressing. But inside the school-room, how about it? The air there was simply rotten. We dislike to use the word, but no other will suffice. The air was so bad that it was almost impossible to remain in the room and look pleasant. Yet the teacher smiled and smiled, and even some of the poor little unfortunates there at her mercy tried bravely to smile.

Suddenly the physical culture instructor hove in sight on the street, approaching the school.

Teacher rushed and opened some windows—we don't understand exactly why—maybe the physical culture instructor was a bit cranky on the fresh air question.

Wish the schoolboard would detail one physical culture crank for each schoolroom presided over by an old-fashioned teacher.

Yes, yes, the school board employs medical inspectors and furnishes blanks for medical examinations—and the blanks say nary a word about sight or hearing—and the board even employs visiting nurses, all in the interest of the health of the school children. But what can doctors and nurses do when the board employs teachers who don't like fresh air unless it is artificially warmed to about 76 degrees and standing perfectly still?

Questions and Answers.

Each His Own Bed: G. R. inquires whether it is proper for brothers and sisters, up to 12, to sleep together if the children are well brought up.

Reply.

It doesn't matter how well they are brought up; each individual, child or adult, should sleep alone. Twin beds, tall in the Talk for October 27, 1914.

one of the richest of the world's oil fields, and, in general, the Caucasus is the mineral treasury of all the Russias. The grain, grazing and fruit lands of this government are very bountiful, and could be turned into the richest of garden and farming spots with a little modern care. Coal is produced. Among the ores now mostly developed for commerce are copper, manganese, mercury, sulphur, iron, cobalt and salt.

"Europe's barrier against south-eastern Asia, the Caucasus Range, stretches across the middle lands of Caucasasia, dividing the government into Ciscaucasasia and Transcaucasasia. In the mountainous central region is to be found some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. The mountains are heavily forested, and upon their ledges and within their locked valleys survive some of the most primitive of all white peoples. All varieties of climate occur in this land of variety, from the bitter sharp seasons of the heights to the everlasting tropical weather of the low and date tree land. The fauna also shows a wide range, from the common European species of wild animals to the leopard and the tiger.

"The population of Caucasasia is mostly agricultural in its pursuits. It is backward, and for the most part beyond an abundance of grains and fruits has no other desires. Naturally, therefore, the industries of modern life have only made negligible beginnings. The natives make harness, rugs, woolen cloaks, leather articles trimmed with artistic silver designs, and a fairly good wine. There is further a lack of refining industry. The growth of industrial life is held back by an almost entire lack of transportation facilities. While railroads connect Tiflis, the capital and distributing center, with the chief ports, Batumi and Baku, the greater part of the land is neither accessible by train nor even by plausible wagon-roads."

CHORDS AND DISCORDS

THE Hemp act would have a more salutary effect than the Mann act in stopping bigamous practices in this country.

ASIDE from those who have been spoken of in connection with the candidacy for the Rock Island majority there are ever so many who are sitting up late at night just pining to be mentioned.

Desertion, Probably.

I see an item in your paper that says "Galesburg is after the Sixth regiment band." What's the charge? P. L. E.

ANOTHER character arrested for purchase of alleged stolen property has been given a clearance by the court. He said that he did not know the goods he bought were stolen. They never do know.

IN view of events of the past few days you are probably not grieving over the fact that you postponed your trip to sunny Italy this winter.

Nearly Calamity.

(Stark County News.)

Announcement of a moving picture show under the management of Fred Griswold brought lovers of this form of amusement flocking to the town hall last Saturday evening, but they had their trouble for their pains, as the "picture" machine had laid aside tatters and gone on a strike; so, seeing there was nothing doing, the would-be spectators unceremoniously buried their dead hopes and went out under the starlight to think over what might have been. The manager was profusely apologetic for the unruly behavior of the "critter" and faithfully promises that nevermore will it be a case of "walk in, turn around and walk right out again," but instead the people will come early, stay late, and leave hankering for more.

O, to lie in long grasses!
O, to dream of the plain!
Where the west wind sings as it passes
A weird and unceasing refrain;
Where the rank grass wallows and tosses,
And the plains' ring dazzles the eye,
Where hardly a silver cloud bosses
The flashing steel arch of the sky.

To watch the gay gulls as they flutter
Like snowflakes and fall down the sky,
To swoop in the depths of the hollows,
Where the crow's foot tows away,
And gnats in the lee of the thickets
Are swirling like waiters in glee,
To the harsh, shrill creak of the crickets,
And the song of the lark and the bee.

O, far-off plains of my west land!
O, lands of winds and the free,
Swift deer—my mist-led plain!
From my bed in the heart of the forest,
From the clasp and the girdle of pain
You light through my darkness passes,
To your meadows in dreaming I fly,
To plunge in the depths of your grasses,
To bask in the light of your sky.
HAMLIN GARLAND.

Information Wanted.

(Kane, Ill. Review.)

The city papers are all making announcement of the approaching visit of the stork to the president's daughter at the White house this month. What if the Review editor was to make mention of approaching visits in this neck of the woods? Who could be found to take his place?

Only Crooked Thing.

(Milwaukee Sentinel.)

There is a Crook in the White house. He has been there since before President Lincoln's death. He is Colonel W. H. Crook, the disburbing officer, and there isn't a crooked thing about him except his name.

A Rail at the Bar.

The people will look on with great complaisance while the lawyers carry out those plans for improving the profession.—Omaha World-Herald.

Everybody Satisfied.

(Sterling Gazette.)

Mr. and Mrs. Will Franks, who live tributary to Prophetstown, and are among the prosperous farmers of the community, are rejoicing that the stork in his rounds was kind enough to leave with them a nice baby girl on Jan. 8, 1915. The mother and baby are getting along nicely and the old man is not sorry.

PROBABLY through force of habit Cole Bleese, after he had turned loose the last convict in the South Carolina pen, pardoned himself. That is, he resigned the governorship five days before his term expired, and it was accepted.

So the Police Say.

Don't know whether you have ever observed, but I find that the ice is more slippery at night than in the daytime. D. F. M.

NEVER could quite fathom the meaning of the correspondent who says the Kaiser is back at the front.

IT is denied that the barbers are behind the "safety first" movement.

AN expert investigator has now made the astounding discovery that Chicago policemen are asleep.

ROCKEFELLER has advised his secretary to marry the girl, get a job in her father's grocery and begin at the bottom. One suspects that John is anxious to take on a new man to click his typewriter. J. M. C.

The Daily Story

How a Dowry Was Procured—By Margaret C. Devereaux.

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Between Switzerland and France there is a chain of mountains running in a northeasterly direction to Basel. Within the Swiss border there lived a watchmaker named Cremieux. His daughter, Clochette, was a very pretty girl, 17 years old, with black hair and eyes and an olive complexion, through which on each cheek shone a rosette color like that on a ripe peach. Alphons Boyer, a young woodcutter, met Clochette at a dance and thereupon came one of those quick love affairs that spring up like mushrooms between young persons of opposite sex.

For a while Clochette concealed the affair from her father, for woodcutting has never been a profitable occupation, and Alphons was poor as a church mouse. She did not think, therefore, that her father would permit her to marry her lover, especially since there was no dowry for her. But those who love and are kept apart soon are worn out, and at last Clochette told her father her secret, adding that if she could not marry Alphons she did not care to live. Cremieux, fearing that his daughter would destroy herself, after much thought said to her:

"I will consent to your marrying Alphons on condition that you or he can make enough money for your dowry. You will need 2,000 francs with which to begin housekeeping and have a nest egg. I will help you. I know a manufacturer in Geneva who will furnish me on credit with watch springs. There is a heavy duty on them when transported to another country. We are near the border of France. If you or Alphons can smuggle enough watch springs into that country to produce a profit of 4,000 francs I will consent to the marriage. The duty is 40 per cent. Therefore, to produce a profit of 4,000 francs you must get 10,000 francs' worth of watch springs into France free of duty. But if you are caught smuggling the goods will be confiscated. Therefore, you must not risk doing all at one time. Risk only 2,000 francs' worth at each attempt."

Clochette conveyed this information to her lover, and they agreed to accept the conditions, making alternate trips with each other across the mountains into France. The customs officers were alert, and ingenious devices were needed to deceive them. Clochette agreed to make the first trip, and Alphons made for her a pair of wooden shoes in such fashion that when the outside and inside, which were separate, were placed together, the whole would look like a shoe. But between them he left a space, which would contain the watch springs. Using this device, Clochette passed the customs officers successfully, and the first installment of the dowry was won.

Sidelights on the European War

Paris.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Soup and boiled beef distribution has been undertaken on a large scale in Paris to meet the winter's demand. Pieces of beef which, though wholesome and nutritious, are not advantageous for the feeding of the soldiers on account of the weight and cumbersome nature, are sent by the butchers to the soup kitchens for the poor, to be sold at the lowest price that nets actual cost. The soup was sold first at 6 sous a litre and the same price for a half pound of beef, but the soup has been reduced to 2 sous a litre and the beef to 4 sous a pound.

From 10 o'clock in the morning until 3 in the afternoon, a long line composed mostly of women and children with their pots, pails and jugs, await their turn to be served at the stock yards.

The soup kitchens have extended all over Paris, and now more than 10,000 persons, representing as many families, are served daily at an optional cost of 2 cents.

So many come that the enterprise has turned out to be a profitable venture, and the profits, to which the city of Paris added a sum of 5,000 francs which was generally reserved as an indemnity for summer holiday vacation of the stock yards employees, are to be used to purchase warm clothing for soldiers.

This has taken the idea of charity out of the enterprise and made those who bring their 2 sous or their 4 sous co-partners in an enterprise for the comfort of the men in the trenches.

Up to the present time these poor people have sent more than a thousand full sets of warm clothing to the soldiers, besides the same number of pipes and a considerable quantity of tobacco.

At one part of the stock yard a line may be seen every day, composed chiefly of old men and invalids waiting to pay their penny for a pint of ox blood.

This individual instance of the work at the stock yards is typical of many pathetic cases.

"A litre of bouillon, please," asked a bent old woman with a few scattered gray hairs, in a timid voice to the butcher in charge. The butcher scrutinized her and reached for a larger ladle; the litre he made more than measure and dropped a good chunk of boiled beef with it into her pail. The old lady handed out a copper 2 sou piece. The man looked at it, forced a severe expression and handed it back, saying: "It's no good; it's got a hole in it." The old lady looked startled and began to search for the hole, while she was unable to find. "Keep it, old lady, perhaps it'll bring you luck." Then she understood, muttered a few

Alphonse next started with an equal number of springs. Since it was the hunting season, he took his gun and game bag and, going up into the mountains, began to shoot squirrels and other game. A customs officer, hearing the reports, approached, and, seeing the huntsman, made the necessary examination, then let him go where he liked. Alphons's gun had two barrels, and one was full of watch springs.

Clochette's turn coming next, she carried her consignment through in a handbox with a false bottom. An officer took everything out of the box, but did not discover the trick.

This left one more trip for each, Alphons's turn coming next. He ascended the mountains with an ax on his shoulder and on reaching the summit began to chop. A customs officer joined him, and unluckily he was the same man who had seen him as a huntsman. This made him suspicious.

"I thought you hunted?" he said to Alphons.

"Oh, that was only for a day's sport. I am a woodchopper. I am to cut 20 cords of wood and must do it at once."

"Nevertheless I must search you," said the other.

He made a careful examination, but found nothing on Alphons that was dutiable. Having satisfied himself, he went away, and the woodchopper soon slipped down the mountain side to the westward. His ax handle was hollow and full of watch springs.

There was now but one more trip to be made by Clochette, but, having made two and met a different customs officer each time, she feared that she might meet one of the two, in which case his suspicions would be excited.

When she went up the mountain with her watch springs she carried a large bouquet of flowers. She did not attempt to go through by any unfrequented route, but by a paved road. When she came to the summit, there stood a man who was expected to look after smugglers. As soon as Clochette saw him she winced. He was the man she had passed with the handbox.

"You come this way very often," he said, eyeing her suspiciously.

"Only once before."

"Twice before. The first time I saw you, but you did not see me. Come in here."

He took her into a customs station, where he turned her over to a woman to be searched. Nothing was found on her, and, picking up her bouquet, she held it under their noses, then walked away, saying:

"You customs people are very suspicious."

This time the last consignment of watch springs was in the bouquet.

Alphonse and Clochette were married and lived happily.

Nice.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—Life at Monte Carlo, with the Casino closed, continued to be very quiet but the International Sporting club is open with tables where some risk their money at baccarat. This so-called "civvie game" slops playing at eight o'clock at night, so middle-aged gamblers are able to spend a good long night in bed after the strain of the day. In the scarcity of gold gambling goes on with counters instead of coins. One gets them at the entrance against notes; when leaving counters are again exchanged for notes. Extreme difficulty in handling paper caused this important change. The aspect of the gambling halls is the same, the sound is different that is all.

The opera season has been cancelled, but the opera season will start as usual in the second half of January. Theatrical pleasures are of rather serious sort, being confined to classical concerts.

Amsterdam.—(Correspondence of The Associated Press).—"What kind of books shall we send to the hospitals?" was the question discussed by a Berlin charitable organization in the head of one of the German field hospital divisions.

The answer came back promptly: "Whatever you send, don't send war literature. The wounded like best of all a good love story. The young men, especially, are rather tired of hearing about the war. It is better for them, too, that they should have a rest from that sort of thing."

Apparatus to be fastened to a man's feet as he lies in bed to make his legs so through the motions of walking has been invented to treat victims of partial paralysis.

Jan. 15 in American History.

1811—Admiral George Cockburn, British naval officer and general, died 1887.

1865—Capture of Fort Fisher, N. C., by the Federal army and navy after a heroic defense by the Confederate garrison. Naval bombardment had continued two days. General A. B. Terry's troops carried the work by a hand to hand combat inside the main parapet. Assaults lost 1,000 killed and wounded and the defenders 500.

1914—General Louis Wagner, noted G. A. R. veteran, national commander in chief, 1880-1, died in Philadelphia; born 1838.